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The only disadvantage of the electric motors is that they are not easily movable, as they are dependent on the power line to which they are connected.

Measures are now under way to install electric motors of 1949 and 1950 production at every Machine Tractor Station, Farm Workers' Cooperatives, and State Farm. The power association will cooperate by providing the necessary connections.

BELEN SWAMPLAND DRAINED -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 29 Jul 50

During recent years, the swampland of Belen in the Danube area [about halfway between the Yugoslav border and the Black Sea] has been drained into the river and the malaria-infested area converted to fertile farmland. Embankments have been constructed to prevent floods, and a system of irrigation canals runs across the Belen lowland to protect it against droughts. The equipment for the latter was offered as a gift by Stalin.

At present, the Brushlan lowland near Tutrakan is being provided with a similar system of canals, to irrigate the soil of the Dobrudzha areas. Furthermore, the government is proceeding to drain vast sections of the Danube shore, and the work has already been completed in the Vidin, Archan, Orsoya, Tsibur, and Brushlan lowlands, where 500,000 decares of land have been reclaimed. Sunflower and corn are already growing throughout the area.

Forestry agencies have planted protective belts of willow, poplar, and acacia trees along the shore to protect the crops against floods. The fishing cooperatives are very active along the Danube and catch huge quantities of carp, sheatfish, and sturgeon. For the last 3 years, tests have been conducted in the Svishtov area to produce rice; the results have been very gratifying.

The industrial development of the Danube area, which had heretofore been very slow, will now be given much greater attention and will be strongly supported by the abundant agricultural production of the area and the increased sailing fleet. Nikopol, Pleven, Levski, Pavlikeni, and Svishtov will become important marketing centers.

WATER SYNDICATES ACTIVE -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 26 Jul 50

Because of the intensive activity of the Water Syndicates, irrigated areas throughout the country have doubled in comparison to 1949. During 1950, construction work on irrigation projects will be extended to one million decares of land, and more than 3 million decares will be irrigated under the provisions of the Five-Year Plan, mostly in northern and southern Bulgaria.

The effect of the irrigation on agriculture has been very gratifying: the Pirin Syndicate in the Sandanski municipal area has provided 50,000 decares of irrigated land for intensive cultivation. Excellent work has also been done by the Kyustendil Syndicate, which has provided a wide system of canals to irrigate the orchards and trucking farms in that area. Extensive irrigation work has likewise been conducted in Purvomay, Svishtov, Silistra, and other okoliya.

The Union of Water Syndicates has been recently transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, which will be in charge of the necessary planning and supervision.

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CO-OPS FIRST TO HARVEST AND DELIVER GRAIN -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 28 Jul 50

Farm Workers' Cooperatives started harvesting and threshing work much earlier than private farmers, and were also ahead of the latter in starting shallow plowing of the stubble fields. So far, they have fulfilled the plan by 79.7 percent, whereas private farmers still remain 49 percent below the quota.

The same is true for grain deliveries, but individual farmers may soon start to follow the excellent example given by the cooperatives and speed up their deliveries. Throughout the country, the superior work done by cooperative farmers is recognized even by those opposing cooperative farming. During the first 6 months of 1950, the number of Farm Workers' Cooperatives increased from 1,563 to 1,781, whereas their land area increased by 49 percent and may increase considerably more before the end of the year.

TOMATO EXPORT LAGGING -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 23 Jul 50

The Rayon Cooperative Union of Pavlikeni is proceeding with the second collection of tomatoes for export. Within the past few days, several carloads of tomatoes have been collected from Farm Workers' Cooperatives throughout Pavlikeni Okoliya. However, the export shipping campaign has been delayed by the Bulgarplodeksport State Trade Enterprise, which failed to provide the funds necessary to pay producers; also, no credits were made available by the local banks. Action is being taken to eliminate these shortcomings. [The Bulgarplodeksport, with headquarters in Sofia, exports fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, wine, liquor, seeds, etc. It has agencies in Moscow, Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Stockholm, Berlin, Munich, Brussels, and Zurich.]

WILL USE WILD SEEDS TO PRODUCE FODDER -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 1 Aug 50

The Ministry of Agriculture has launched a campaign to collect the seeds of some widespread wild fodder grasses, such as French rye, darnel, timothy, bent grass, broomrape, centaury, rubeola, and earless wild oats. The seeds are best collected in oak forests, mountain glades, mountain safety belts, and along railroad tracks. The collecting is chiefly done by students of the Georgi Dimitrov Agricultural Academy of Sofia, the natural science school of Sofia University, the agricultural school of Plovdiv University, and others, as part of their training, and with the assistance of the local organizations of the Dimitrov Youth Organization and the Septemvrichen children, school vacation camps, etc.

The Zemsrab (Agricultural Supply) representatives of the ministry are directed to provide the groups with the necessary equipment and to receive the seeds. Subsequently, the Zemsrab organizations will clean and sort the seeds, which will be used exclusively for seed production, under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The government and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party have assigned the Ministry of Agriculture and all young people throughout the country the important task of increasing seed production and domestic fodder resources, to cut down foreign imports of fodder seed. It should also facilitate and accelerate the introduction of the three-field system.

TO REGISTER SEED -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 1 Aug 50

The Ministry of Agriculture has ordered that people's soviets throughout the country start to register the grain reserves of Farm Workers' Cooperatives, State Farms, and individual farmers. The soviets will accordingly establish

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the proper lists of the seed fund. In some areas, the registration is proceeding very slowly, and the soviets will have to recruit the help of political and mass organizations to spread a more effective educational campaign among the farmers, to convince them to register their seed fully and accurately. Furthermore, they must be convinced of the advantage of exchanging ordinary for high grade seed to increase and improve the yields.

TOBACCO GROWERS TO GET LOW-PRICED BUILDING MATERIALS -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 29 Jul 50

In most of the tobacco-growing areas, the first and second harvest has been concluded, and the third one is under way. Sandanski, Kharmanli, and Khaskovo okoliya were the first to complete the work successfully.

The greatest handicap to tobacco growing has been the high cost of construction materials used to build tobacco dryers. According to a recent decree of the Council of Ministers, the materials, including shingles, boards, rafters, and nails, will be provided to tobacco growers at the lowest prices.

The Ministry of Internal Trade should see to it that the materials reach the Farm Workers' Cooperatives and private farmers as soon as possible.

EXEMPT STATE FARMS FROM TAXES -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 23 Jul 50

The Council of Ministers has published the following instructions in regard to the tax exemption for State Farms:

State Farms are exempted from all state and local taxes, tariffs, assessments, and duties, except the turnover tax, and the state water and electric power tax. The law is retroactive [date not given]. State Farms in arrears in the payment of local or state taxes are excused from paying these debts, regardless of the time to which they apply.

In future, State Farms will pay only turnover taxes from products subject to these taxes. Taxes already paid will not be returned.

EXPECT GOOD RICE HARVEST -- Sofia Zemedelsko Zname, 30 Jul 50

Abundant rainfall in July and the subsequent period of good weather are expected to produce a plentiful rice harvest. Preparations are under way to start harvesting operations earlier than last year.

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